

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2005. New dependent claim 20 has been added. Thus, claims 1-13 and 16-20 are now pending.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under Section 112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 herein (deletion of material in the last paragraph of the claim) addresses and overcomes any potential issue in this regard. The changes to claim 1 also address and overcome the formality objection to claim 16. In particular, claim 1 no longer recites the generally circular shape feature, and no longer requires that at least some of the open regions have substantially the same shape and/or size.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kubo in view of Kim. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that “the first electrode includes, *in each of the plurality of picture element regions, a plurality of unit solid portions arranged in a first direction*, whereby the liquid crystal layer takes a substantially vertical alignment in the absence of an applied voltage between the first electrode and the second electrode.” For example and without limitation, Fig. 1A illustrates for a given pixel electrode 14 three unit solid portions 14a of the pixel electrode being arranged in a line in the first direction. See also Figs. 5, 7-10, and so forth of the instant application as additional examples. The arrangement *in a line* of the three unit solid portions 14a of an electrode in a picture element region is advantageous, for example and without limitation, in that this permits an increase of an area ratio of the unit solid portion(s) and an increase of the proportion of the area that contributes to the display with respect to the total area of the picture

element region (e.g., see paragraphs 0142-0147 of the instant application). This may permit the aperture ratio to be increased.

Kubo *fails* to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1. In particular, Fig. 1A of Kubo discloses a 3×3 *matrix* of nine interconnected unit solid portions 14b. Because the nine connected unit solid portions 14b in Fig. 1A of Kubo are arranged in the form of a matrix, they are not arranged *in a first direction* as required by claim 1. Moreover, for example and without limitation, Kubo fails to disclose or suggest an in-line arrangement for a purpose of increasing aperture ratio.

Claim 18

Claim 18 requires that “the first electrode includes, in each of the plurality of picture element regions, a plurality of *unit solid portions arranged in a first direction*.” Kubo fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 18. In particular, Fig. 1A of Kubo discloses a 3×3 *matrix* of nine interconnected unit solid portions 14b. Because the nine connected unit solid portions 14b in Fig. 1A of Kubo are arranged in the form of a matrix, they are not arranged *in a first direction* as required by claim 18.

Conclusion

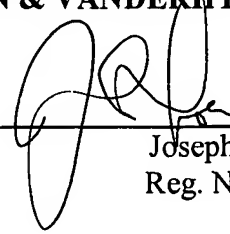
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

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Respectfully submitted,

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